

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

DIA WASHDC

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0802

FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, PARM, UR, NATO

SUBJECT: GROMYKO SUGGESTS "PRELIMINARY MEETING" ON NUCLEAR NON-FIRST

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USE

REF: A) MOSCOW 664, B) 76 MOSCOW 20039, C) 76 MOSCOW 19729

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN JAN 17 LUNCHEON TOAST FOR NEW
POLISH FONMIN, GROMYKO PROPOSED "PRELIMINARY MEETING"
OF CSCE STATES TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE "MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT

ONE OR ANOTHER ASPECT" OF WP NON-NUCLEAR FIRST USE PROPOSAL. NATO REJECTION, HE SAID, WAS NOT UNANIMOUS, SINCE THERE ARE "CIRCLES" IN NATO WITH "A DIFFERENT POSITION," AND ANYWAY "THE OPINION OF THE PEOPLES" IS THE MAIN THING. HE HAS THUS CARRIED HIS VIEW OF THE NATO RESPONSE (REF A) ONE STEP FURTHER, AND GIVEN BREZHNEV'S INTEREST WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT MORE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE NOISE ABOUT NNFU. AT SAME TIME, PROPOSAL FOR "PRELIMINARY MEETING" LOOKS LIKE TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO GIVE SOME SMALL MOMENTUM FOR WHAT SOVIETS SUSPECT IS A NON-STARTER. END SUMMARY.

2. IN JAN 17 LUNCHEON TOAST TO NEW POLISH FONMIN WOJTASZEK (AS REPORTED IN PRAVDA TASS ACCOUNT JAN 18), GROMYKO GAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO WARSAW PACT BUCHAREST PROPOSAL FOR TREATY AMONG CSCE PARTICIPANTS ON NON-FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NNFU). BUCHAREST PROPOSALS, "ABOVE ALL" NNFU, HAVE "PRINCIPLED SIGNIFICANCE," HE SAID. EVEN THOUGH NATO DECLARED NO INTEREST IN THIS SPECIFIC PROPOSAL, "THE FACTS SAY THAT THIS IS FAR FROM BEING A UNANIMOUS VIEW. FOR IT IS KNOWN THAT THERE ARE CIRCLES IN NATO COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE A DIFFERENT POSITION. AND THE MAIN THING IS THE OPINION OF THE PEOPLES."

3. "IT IS FULLY REASONABLE," GROMYKO WENT ON, "THAT THE (FOLLOWING) QUESTION ARISES: WHY SHOULD THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE NOT MEET ALL TOGETHER IN A PRELIMINARY WAY, AT AN APPROPRIATE, AGREED LEVEL, AND DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL. CONFIDENTIAL

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IF ANYTHING IS STILL UNCLEAR TO ANYONE, THEN WHY NOT A PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ABOUT IT, TO TRY TO REMOVE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT ONE OR THE OTHER ASPECT OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES' INITIATIVE."

4. COMMENT. WITHOUT TAKING FORLANI'S POINT (REF A) THAT NNFU PROPOSAL CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED ON CONTEXT OF OVERALL BALANCE IN CONVENTIONAL FORCES, GROMYKO HAS TAKEN HIS OWN POINT THAT THE NATO MINISTERS HAD PROBABLY NOT THOUGHT THROUGH ALL ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE A STEP FURTHER, AND PROPOSED THAT CSCE PARTICIPANTS (OR AT LEAST THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE "ALL-EUROPEAN" CONFERENCE) THINK THEM THROUGH TOGETHER. AND, IN ADDITION, HE HAS MADE CLEAR THE SOVIET DESIRE TO PICK APART THE NATO REJECTION BY PLAYING ON WEAK LINKS OR "PUBLIC OPINION".

5. GIVEN THAT BREZHNEV HIMSELF SEEMS ATTACHED TO THE PROPOSAL (REF A, PARA 5), THE LEAST WE CAN EXPECT IS FURTHER NOISE ABOUT IT IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. AT

THE SAME TIME, GROMYKO'S SUGGESTION OF A "PRELIMINARY
MEETING" TO IRON OUT "MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT ONE OR
ANOTHER ASPECT" LOOKS FROM HERE LIKE A TRANSPARENT
ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE ILLUSION THAT A NON-STARTER IS STARTING. TOON

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Message Attributes

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